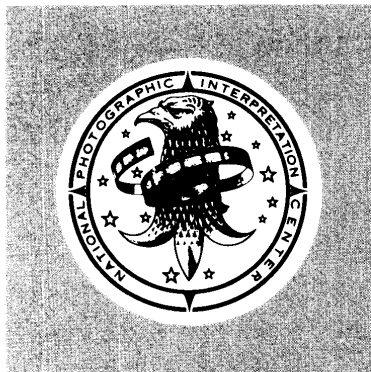


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**NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC
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REPORT

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**SOVIET GROUND FORCES
SINO-SOVIET BORDER
JANUARY 1977 — DECEMBER 1978
(TSR)**

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GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AA – antiaircraft
AAA – antiaircraft artillery
ACV – armored command vehicle
AFV – armored fighting vehicle
APC – armored personnel carrier
ATGM – antitank guided missile
BN – battalion
GDS – guards
HQ – headquarters
HVY – heavy
MD – military district
MOB – mobilization/second generation
MRD – motorized rifle division
MRL M-1977 – heavy rocket launcher
MRR – motorized rifle regiment
MTZ – motorized
PT-76 – reconnaissance vehicle
SAM – surface-to-air missile
SP – self-propelled
TEL – transporter-erector-launcher
T-54 – tank
T-62 – tank
TNG – training
Unid – unidentified
UR – fortified area

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25X1**SOVIET GROUND FORCES, SINO-SOVIET BORDER
JANUARY 1977 – DECEMBER 1978 (TSR)****ABSTRACT**

1. (TSR) This report is an imagery-derived analysis covering major developments in Soviet ground force units along the Sino-Soviet border from January 1977 to December 1978. The developments include new unit deployments, force enhancement, and force upgrading. These developments are discussed by units within the military districts. The report contains 15 photographs, 18 maps, and a line drawing.

INTRODUCTION

2. (TSR) In January 1977, Soviet ground forces along the Sino-Soviet border consisted of 45 divisions (five tank, 35 motorized rifle, and five inactive second generation) and Front- and army-level support units. This force was organized into six armies and two army corps deployed in four military districts—the Far East MD*, the Transbaikai MD (including Soviet forces in Mongolia), the Siberian MD, and the Central Asian MD (Figure 1). All divisional and army designators are derived from collateral information.¹

3. (TSR) From January 1977 to December 1978, 31 of the active divisions were upgraded with new equipment, two second-generation (mobilization) divisions were activated, two active MRDs* and two second-generation divisions were newly deployed to the border area, one MRD was reorganized into a new experimental tank division, and two probable armies were organized. By December 1978, Soviet forces on the Sino-Soviet border consisted of 49 divisions—five tank, one experimental tank, 38 motorized rifle, and five second generation. The divisions were organized into six confirmed armies, two probable armies, and two army corps. This represented a 10 percent increase in the number of active divisions deployed along the border.

4. (TSR) Also during this reporting period, three new types of equipment were deployed for the first time in the USSR along the Sino-Soviet border, including the 203mm SP* gun, the 240mm SP mortar, and the MRL M-1977*.

5. (TSR) Major changes to unit structure included the conversion of an MRD into a new-type, experimental tank division; the deployment of 152mm SP guns into the artillery regiments of three tank divisions; the deployment of rocket launcher batteries at the maneuver regimental level into nine divisions; the introduction of mixed SA-6/SA-8, surface-to-air missile (SAM) regiments into six divisions; and the deployment of an artillery battalion into a tank regiment.

BASIC DESCRIPTION**Far East Military District**

6. (TSR) In January 1977, the Far East MD contained 15 active MRDs and three second-generation divisions along the Sino-Soviet border organized into three armies (Figure 2). This does not include two divisions on Sakhalin Island and one division at Petropavlovsk. By the end of 1978, 19 active divisions and one second-generation division were organized into three confirmed armies and two probable armies (Figure 2). This represented more than a 25 percent increase in the number of active divisions deployed in the MD.

7. (TSR) During the two-year period covered by this report, the following activities were observed in the Far East MD—three Front-level units were upgraded with new equipment; three army-level units were newly deployed, and three underwent unit conversion; two MRDs were newly deployed into the MD and two second-generation MRDs were activated; an existing MRD was converted into an experimental tank division; and ten MRDs were upgraded with more modern equipment. The addition of four active MRDs along with the formation of two probable armies represents a significant increase in the combat capabilities of the Far East MD.

Front-Level Units

8. (TSR) Front-level units in the Far East MD (Figure 3), consisting of the heavy artillery brigade, the SCALEBOARD brigade, and the artillery division, were upgraded with new equipment during this period.

9. (TSR) In August 1977, the new 240mm SP mortar (Figure 4) was identified in the heavy mortar regiment of the heavy artillery brigade housed at Novosysoyevka IRBM Launch Site 2 (BE

¹ The SP mortar probably replaced all of the 24 older, 240mm towed mortars in this

*Abbreviations are defined on the facing page.

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brigade. In October 1977, the new heavy SP gun was also identified at this installation in the heavy artillery regiment of the heavy artillery brigade.² This was the first identification of this weapon being tactically deployed in the USSR (Figure 5). The SCALEBOARD brigade housed at Novosoyevka IRBM Launch Site 1 [] was upgraded by the deployment of the 25X1 BIG FRED battlefield radar (Figure 6) in September 1978.

10. (TSR) The artillery division housed at Ussuriysk Army Barracks North AL-2 [] 25X1 [] was upgraded with the addition of two rocket launcher battalions and the reequipping of 25X1 one artillery regiment. Two battalions of the MRL M-1977 were identified at this installation in June 1977. The rocket launchers were first deployed here in November 1976, but the poor quality of the imagery precluded identification at that time. This was the first known tactical deployment of the MRL M-1977 in the USSR. The MRL M-1977 [] 25X1 [] In November 1977, each of the divisional 25X1 regiments at Ussuriysk received the BIG FRED battlefield radar. Between October and November 1978, one of the division's 130mm-equipped artillery regiments was reequipped with the 122mm D-30 howitzer.

5th Army

11. (TSR) In January 1977 the 5th Army, headquartered at Ussuriysk (Figure 8), contained four active MRDs and a second-generation division. During this reporting period, one army-level unit was newly deployed into the area, three MRDs were upgraded with new equipment, one army-level unit was relocated, and one division had some of its subordinate units relocated, probably reflecting a change in army boundaries.

12. (TSR) **Army-Level Units.** In July 1978 a newly deployed, pontoon engineer unit was initially identified at Pokrovka Military Installation []. The equipment level at 25X1 this installation continued to increase through 1978. This unit may be an assault-crossing battalion subordinate to the 5th Army Headquarters. In May 1977 the army-level, tank-training regiment housed at Kamen Rybolov Army Barracks AL-1 [] was redeployed 53 nautical 25X1 miles (nm) south to Ussuriysk Army Barracks South-Southeast AL-1 [] 25X1

13. [] **29th Motorized Rifle Division.** The 29th MRD (Kamen Rybolov) relocated one 25X1 of its subordinate units in May 1977. The MRR housed at Spassk-Dalniy Army Barracks AL-1 [] departed the installation and moved 20 nm northwest into Kamen Rybolov Army 25X1 Barracks AL-2 [] on the west side of Lake Khanka. 25X1

14. [] **127th Guards Motorized Rifle Division.** The 127th Guards MRD (Kraskino/- 25X1 Barabash) upgraded one of its units, and one unit was relocated. In January 1977, the artillery regiment housed at Ryazanovo Army Barracks AL-1 [] abandoned the installation 25X1 and moved 8 nm west to Barabash MRD Headquarters/Barracks AL-1 [] which 25X1 also houses other major elements of the division. In September 1977 the 57mm, AA-gun-equipped AAA regiment housed at Kraskino Army Barracks Central AL-1 [] was reequipped 25X1 with the SA-8 mobile SAM system.

15. [] **The 277th Motorized Rifle Division.** The 277th MRD (Sergeyevka) upgraded 25X1 one unit with new equipment. In September 1977, the artillery regiment housed at Chernyatino Army Barracks AL-1 [] reequipped its 152mm towed howitzer battalion with 25X1 152mm SP guns (Figure 9). This was the first deployment of divisional SP artillery in the Far East MD.

16. [] **40th Motorized Rifle Division.** The 40th MRD (Smolyaninovo) relocated and 25X1 upgraded one unit with new equipment. In April 1978, the 57mm, AA-gun-equipped AAA regiment housed at Skhotovo Army Barracks AL-1 [] was removed from the installa- 25X1 tion. During the same time period, SA-6 mobile SAM equipment was identified at Ussuriysk Army Barracks West AL-3 [] which houses additional elements of the division. SA- 25X1 6 TELs were also observed near Ussuriysk at Galenki Airfield Northeast [] indicat- 25X1 ing that the divisional AAA regiment was reequipped with the SA-6 mobile SAM and redeployed to Ussuriysk.

17. (TSR) Minor adjustments were made to the second-generation division housed at Smolyaninovo Army Barracks AL-1/TA 3 [] and Skhotovo Army Barracks AL-1 during 25X1 the summer of 1978. In July 1978, the artillery regiment and rocket launcher battalion usually housed at Smolyaninovo moved 8 nm west to Skhotovo.

15th Army

18. (TSR) In January 1977 the 15th Army, headquartered in Khabarovsk, contained four active MRDs and various army-level support units. During the two-year period covered by this

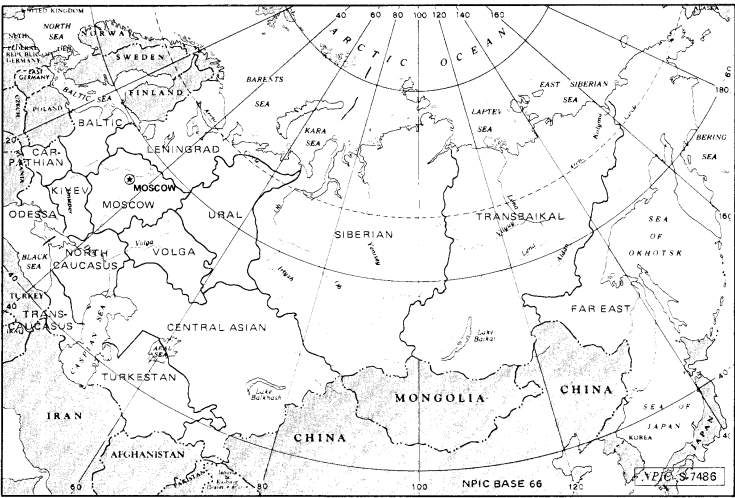


FIGURE 1. SOVIET MILITARY DISTRICTS, SINO-SOVIET AND MONGOLIAN BORDERS

report, one army-level unit received new equipment, one MRD received upgraded equipment, and one MRD repositioned some of its subordinate units (Figure 10).

19. (TSR) **Army-Level Units.** In July 1977, a large increase in PPS bridging equipment was observed at Khabarovsk Artillery Engineer Depot DO 2. At the same time, the 25X1 pontoon bridge regiment housed at Khabarovsk Signal Brigade Headquarters/Barracks AL-24 (BE) also equipped with the PPS pontoon bridge, rebuilt and realigned its vehicle park. This activity along with an increase in bridging equipment indicates an increased river-crossing capability for this unit.

LIST OF SYMBOLS KEYED TO MAPS
(Figures 2, 3, 8, 10, 11, 16, 18, 20, 21, 26, 27, 29, and 30)

Unit Size	Unit Type
[Symbol]	Battalion
[Symbol]	Regiment
[Symbol]	Brigade
[Symbol]	Division
[Symbol]	Corps
[Symbol]	Army
[Symbol]	Motorized Rifle
[Symbol]	Tank
[Symbol]	Artillery
[Symbol]	Antiaircraft Artillery
[Symbol]	Engineer
[Symbol]	Experimental
[Symbol]	Second Generation (Mobilization)

Items in red indicate newly deployed units.

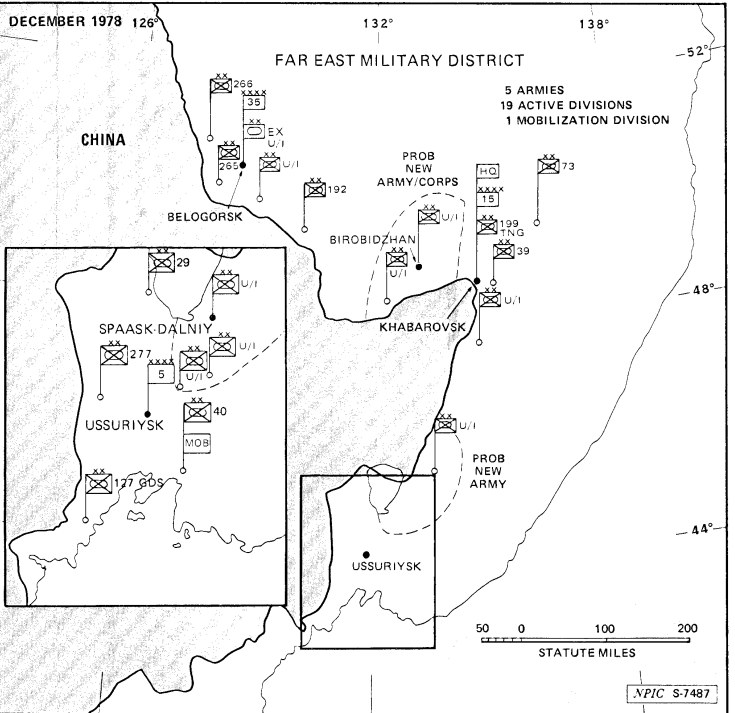
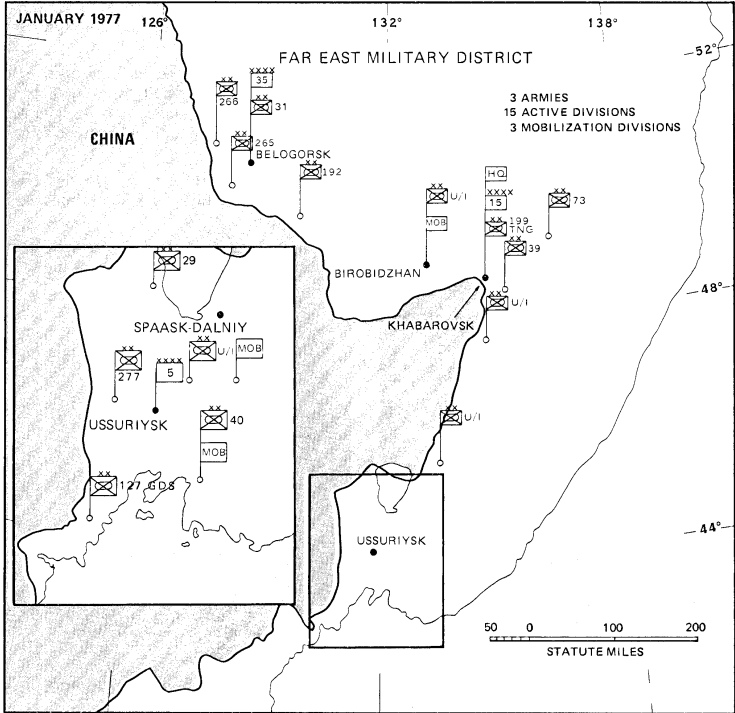


FIGURE 2. ORDER-OF-BATTLE, SINO-SOVIET BORDER AREA OF THE FAR EAST MILITARY DISTRICT, JANUARY 1977 (LEFT TOP) AND DECEMBER 1978 (RIGHT BOTTOM)

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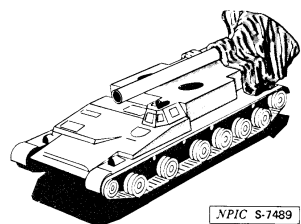


FIGURE 4. LINE DRAWING OF 240MM MORTAR

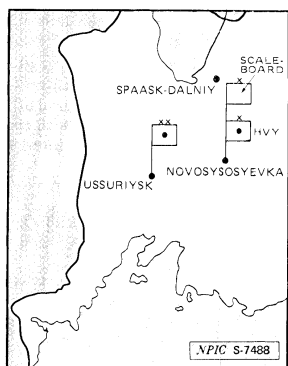


FIGURE 3. FRONT-LEVEL UNITS UPGRADED, FAR EAST MILITARY DISTRICT

20. **199th Motorized Rifle Division.** Major elements of the 199th (training) MRD (Khabarovsk/Anastasyevka) were repositioned during this reporting period. In April 1977, the engineer battalion housed at Khabarovsk Army Barracks AL-28 vacated the installation and moved 3 nm northwest to Khabarovsk Army Barracks AL-24. In September 1977, the MRR housed at Khabarovsk Army Barracks AL-24 vacated its vehicle park and moved into a newly constructed vehicle park outside the installation. The third MRR for this division, unlocated at that time, probably moved into the old MRR vehicle park. In August 1977, the artillery regiment, antitank battalion, and rocket launcher battalion housed at Khabarovsk MRD Headquarters/Barracks AL-1 moved 10 nm northeast to Anastasyevka Arm Barracks AL-1/TA-1. The relocation of major divisional elements near a recently completed and very large training area in Anastasyevka will aid this division's role as the training division for the 15th Army.

21. **39th Motorized Rifle Division.** The 39th MRD (Khabarovsk) upgraded on unit during this reporting period. In August 1977, the artillery regiment housed at Khabarovsk Engineer Depot 2 reequipped its two battalions of 122mm towed howitzers with the 122mm D-30 towed howitzer. This was the first artillery regiment in the Far East MD to be equipped with the D-30 howitzer.

22. **Other Units.** No significant changes were observed during this reporting period in the unidentified MRD in the Lermontovko Bikin area or in the 73d MRD (Komsomolsk).

35th Army

23. (TSR) In January 1977 the 35th Army, headquartered in Belogorsk, contained four MRDs plus various army-level units. During this reporting period, one army-level unit was converted to a specialized unit, one army-level unit was upgraded with new equipment, a new army-level unit and a new MRD were deployed into the area, an MRD was converted into a new experimental tank division, two MRDs were upgraded with new equipment, and two MRDs had major divisional elements relocated (Figure 11).

24. (TSR) **Army-Level Units.** Major elements of a new engineer regiment were deployed in June 1977 to Shimanovsk Army Barracks, a deactivated ICBM site.

25. (TSR) In August 1977, the independent tank regiment housed at Berezovka Army Barracks AL-1 was converted into a specialized assault-river-crossing unit (Figure 12).³ The unit is equipped with BTR-50 APCs, PT-76 reconnaissance vehicles, and rigid pointed pontoon ferries. This is one of the few deployments of the rigid, pointed pontoon ferry in the USSR.

26. (TSR) In June 1978, the artillery brigade housed at Tomichi Artillery Division Headquarters/Barracks AL-1 was upgraded by the addition of tracked prime mover in the artillery battalions, increasing the mobility of the unit.

27. **New Motorized Rifle Division.** During this reporting period, a new unidentified MRD was deployed to Zavitsinsk Military Barracks AL-1. Unusual activity

29. [] **265th Motorized Rifle Division.** The 265th MRD (Vozzhayevka) had three of its units upgraded and one unit relocated. In August 1977, the MRR housed at Zavitsinsk Army Barracks AL-1 moved 60 nm northwest to Sredne-Belaya Army Barracks AL-1/SAM Site A33-4 []. In October 1977, the artillery regiment housed at Sredne-Belaya received additional artillery pieces to bring it up to full complement. In August 1977, the tank regiment housed at Vozzhayevka MRD Headquarters/Barracks South AL-1 [] was upgraded with the deployment of the MT-LB mobile SAM system. The AAA regiment housed at Pozdveyevka Army Barracks AL-1 [] was reequipped with the SA-6 mobile SAM in August 1977. In June 1978, a combined SA-6/SA-8 SAM exercise was observed near Vozzhayevka Army Barracks AL-1, indicating that the SA-6 regiment for this division (Pozdveyevka) may now be a mixed SA-6/SA-8 regiment.



FIGURE 8. 5TH ARMY AREA, USSURIYSK

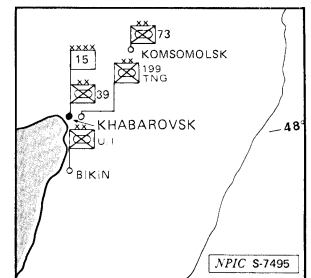


FIGURE 10. 15TH ARMY AREA, Khabarovsk

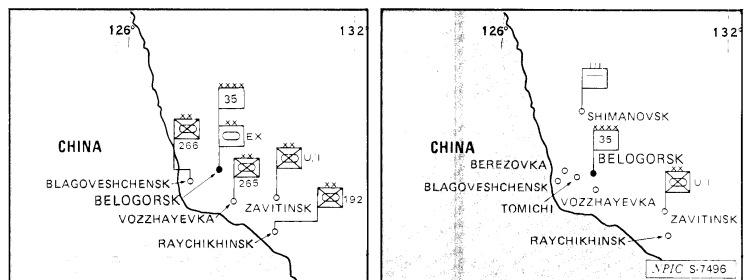


FIGURE 11. 35TH ARMY AREA, BELOGORSK

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34. (TSR) **Army-Level Units.** During this two-year period, one army-level unit was newly deployed; one army-level unit in storage was activated and redeployed; one army-level unit was converted into a division-level unit and subordinated to an MRD; and the presence of one army-level unit was confirmed.

35. (TSR) The nondivisional AAA unit was activated, relocated, and upgraded during this period. The unit is probably an AAA division equipped with almost 300 AA guns. In June 1977, this unit, usually housed at Chernyshevka Army Barracks AL-1 [redacted] vacated the facility and moved 10 nm southwest to Varfolomeyevka Army Barracks AL-1 [redacted] Figure 17), which had recently been vacated by the second-generation division. The unit was upgraded in October 1977 by the addition of improved FLAP WHEEL fire control equipment. This unit could function at the army-level for air defense in lieu of an SA-4 brigade. All other armies in the Far East MD are equipped with an SA-4 brigade.

36. (TSR) A newly deployed, nondivisional engineer unit was identified in April 1978 at Chernyshevskaya Army Barracks AL-1, which had recently been vacated by the AAA unit.

37. (TSR) The army-level independent tank regiment housed at Lesozavodsk was converted into a divisional tank regiment and was redeployed to Spassk-Dalniy in May 1978.

38. (TSR) The presence of a SCUD brigade in the area was confirmed in September 1978 when a field training exercise was observed near Spassk-Dalniy. The garrison for this brigade was confirmed as Spassk-Dalniy SCUD Brigade Headquarters/SSM Barracks AL-3 [redacted] in April 1979.

39. (TSR) No significant changes were observed in the pontoon bridge unit housed at Iman Army Barracks East AL-7 [redacted] during this reporting period.

40. (TSR) **Activated Motorized Rifle Division.** In June 1977, major elements of the second-generation division in long-term storage at Varfolomeyevka Army Barracks AL-1 were activated. The newly activated, unidentified MRD moved 35 nm northwest to Spassk-Dalniy and deployed into a new military installation under construction (Spassk-Dalniy Army Barracks South, [redacted]). In February 1978, one of the cadre motorized regiments at Spassk-Dalniy was equipped with its full complement of BMP AFVs.

41. (TSR) The divisional tank regiment was identified at Spassk-Dalniy in May 1978. This tank regiment was formerly an army-level independent tank regiment housed at Lesozavodsk MRD Headquarters/Barracks East AL-2 [redacted]. In May 1978, this regiment was reorganized into a standard divisional tank regiment, moved 60 nm southwest to Spassk-Dalniy and subordinated to this unidentified MRD.³

42. (TSR) In June 1978, the remaining divisional elements, unlocated until then, were identified at Spassk-Dalniy Army Barracks AL-1. These units included the AAA regiment, the reconnaissance battalion, a probable rocket launcher battalion, and the chemical defense battalion.

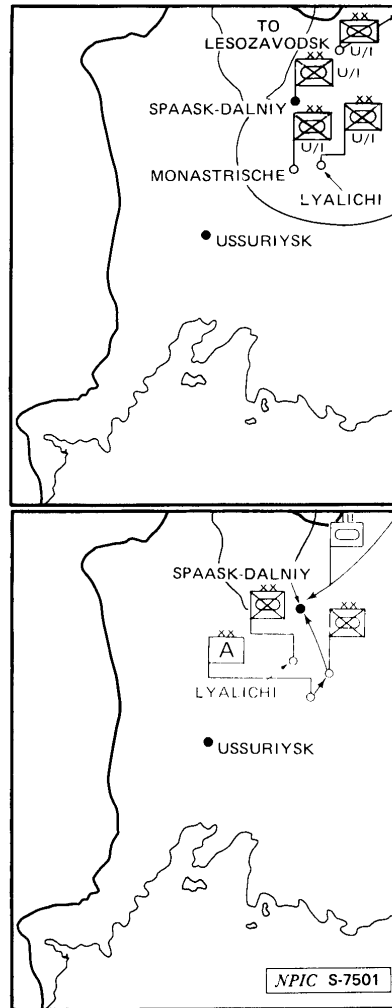


FIGURE 16. NEW ARMY, SPASSK-DALNIY AREA. Army area (right top) and newly deployed and converted units (right bottom).

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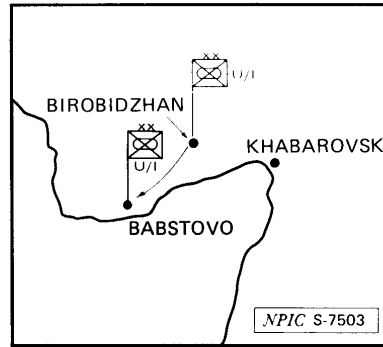


FIGURE 18. BIROBIDZHAN ARMY/CORPS AREA

ion. The reconnaissance battalion was upgraded in December 1978 when its PT-76s were replaced with BMP AFVs.

43. (TSR) **Newly Deployed Motorized Rifle Division.** A newly deployed, cadre MRD was identified at Lyalichi Army Barracks AL-4 [REDACTED] a newly constructed facility, in August 1977. 25X1

44. (TSR) **Unidentified Motorized Rifle Division (1).** The unidentified MRD at Monastyrische/Lyalichi had one of its units upgraded during this period. In January 1978, the MRR housed at Lyalichi Army Barracks AL-3 [REDACTED] received 40 additional BMPs for a total of 139 BMPs housed at this installation. 25X1

45. (TSR) **Unidentified Motorized Rifle Division (2).** No significant changes were observed in the unidentified MRD housed in the Lesozavodsk-Sebuchar area during this reporting period.

46. (TSR) By December 1978, major elements of a probable army were deployed in the Monastyrische/Spassk-Dalniy area. The movement of a tank regiment from Lesozavodsk to Spassk-Dalniy is possible evidence linking the unidentified MRD in the Lesozavodsk area to this army. The presence of four previously unsubordinated active MRDs and four army-level units (especially the SCUD brigade) and the marked increase in military activity in this area since June 1977 suggest that a new army is being formed.

Birobidzhan Army/Corps

47. (TSR) In January 1977, the Birobidzhan area contained four army-level units, one MRD, and one second-generation division. During this reporting period, one army-level unit was upgraded, one army-level unit was converted and subordinated to an MRD, the second-generation division was activated, and the other MRD was relocated. By December 1978, three army-level units and two active MRDs were in the Birobidzhan area, making it probable that an army/corps is being formed in this area (Figure 18).

48. (TSR) **Army-Level Units.** The army-level artillery brigade housed at Birobidzhan Army Barracks South-Southeast AL-3/SA-4 Brigade [REDACTED] was upgraded during this reporting period. In January 1978, this unit was equipped with a new rocket launcher battalion, 85 tracked prime movers for the artillery battalions, and the SMALL FRED and BIG FRED battlefield radars. The addition of this new equipment increases the firepower and mobility of the brigade. 25X1

49. (TSR) **Unidentified Motorized Rifle Division.** During this period, the unidentified MRD (Birobidzhan/Babstovo) relocated major elements closer to the Sino-Soviet border and upgraded one unit with new equipment. The redeployment of units began in May 1977 when an MRR housed at Birobidzhan MRD Headquarters/Barracks AL-1 [REDACTED] moved 45 nm south to Babstovo Army Barracks AL-1 [REDACTED]. The army-level independent tank regiment, also housed at Babstovo at that time, was reorganized into a standard divisional tank regiment and subordinated to this division. In June 1978, the remaining elements of this division still housed in Birobidzhan, including those at Birobidzhan Army Barracks South-Southeast AL-3 (an MRR, engineer battalion, reconnaissance battalion, chemical defense battalion, artillery regiment, FROG battalion, antitank battalion, and a rocket launcher battalion), moved to Babstovo. This redeployment concentrated the division 42 nm closer to the Sino-Soviet border. In October 1977, the MRR housed at Bidzhan Army Barracks AL-2 [REDACTED] was upgraded by the deployment of a battalion of 122mm D-30 howitzers. This was the second deployment of D-30s in the Far East MD and the first to an MRR.³ 25X1 25X1

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50. (TSR) **Activated Motorized Rifle Division.** The second-generation division in storage at Birobidzhan Army Barracks AL-1 was activated after the departure of the active, unidentified MRD from the area in June 1978. Units of the newly activated MRD moved into the vacated vehicle parks (Figure 19).⁴

Transbaikal Military District

51. (TSR) In January 1977, the Transbaikal MD contained 13 active divisions (four tank and nine motorized rifle) and one second-generation division. These units were organized into three armies and a possible corps. During the period from January 1977 to December 1978, no new active divisions were deployed into the MD; however, three MRDs repositioned some of their divisional elements, and 12 of the 13 active divisions upgraded divisional units with new equipment (Figures 20 and 21).

52. (TSR) New equipment deployed within the Transbaikal MD included the 240mm SP mortar; SP artillery was received by five divisions; BM-21 and ZIL-131 multiple rocket launchers were introduced into six MRRs of four divisions; the T-62 replaced the T-54 in three divisions; and the possible deployment of the BTR-70 APC was observed in one division.

53. (TSR) New units within the Transbaikal MD consisted of two mobilization divisions and the formation of two army-level units. In addition, construction continued on the defensive line of tank turrets being built in the USSR-Mongolia-PRC border area. During this reporting period, approximately 275 additional tank turret positions and nine border-defense support barracks were constructed, bringing the totals to almost 800 tank turret firing positions and 12 border-defense support barracks.

54. (TSR) In contrast to the Far East MD, where the deployment of new divisions and the formation of new probable armies has been undertaken, activity in the Transbaikal MD concentrated on the upgrading of existing units.

Front-Level Units

55. (TSR) The SCALEBOARD-associated, heavy artillery brigade housed at Drovyanaya SCALEBOARD Brigade Headquarters/Barracks AL-1 () was upgraded in April 1977 when the heavy mortar regiment was reequipped with the 240mm SP mortars (Figure 22). This was the first tactical deployment of this weapon in the USSR.

56. (TSR) A new SA-4 brigade was deployed to Domna Army Barracks () in July 1977. This SA-4 brigade has not been associated with any army and probably provides air defense at the Front level.

57. (TSR) In September 1978, the SA-8 variant (Figures 23 and 24) was identified in an SA-8 field training exercise at Domna; this was the first observation of the SA-8 variant in the USSR. The home garrison of the regiment observed in the exercise has not been identified.

58. () **Front Subordinate Divisions.** The 49th (training) Tank Division (Chita) upgraded one unit during this reporting period. In April 1978, BMPs were deployed with two tank regiments housed at Chita Tank Division Headquarters/Army Barracks AL-15 (). BMPs had not previously been observed in these units.

59. () The 34th Guards MRD (Sretensk) had two units upgraded during this period. In May 1977, the reconnaissance battalion housed at Sretensk MTZ Rifle Division Headquarters/Barracks AL-1 () was reequipped with BMPs, and a SMALL FRED battlefield radar was observed in the artillery regiment in October 1977.

36th Army

60. (TSR) In February 1977 the 36th Army, headquartered in Borzya, contained three MRDs. During this reporting period, all three divisions had units upgraded with new equipment.

61. () **150th Motorized Rifle Division.** Elements of the 150th MRD (Borzya) were relocated in May and June 1977 when the tank regiment, engineer battalion, and chemical defense battalion housed at Borzya MRD Headquarters/SA-4 Brigade/Barracks AL-3 () moved 14 nm northwest to Shirlovaya Gora Army Barracks AL-1 (). In October 1977, the reconnaissance battalion housed at Borzya Army Barracks AL-3 was reequipped with BMPs. The three MRRs of this division had replaced their T-54/-55 tanks with T-62s in August 1978. In November 1978, the units at Borzya Army Barracks AL-3 (which houses most of the division) were undergoing a major realignment of their vehicle parks, a possible indication of preparations for the deployment of new units to this installation.

62. () **11th Guards Motorized Rifle Division.** The 11th Guards MRD, housed at Mirnaya MRD Headquarters AL-1 () and Bezrechnaya Army Barracks AL-1 (BE) underwent substantial upgrading. The AAA regiment was reequipped with the SA-8 mobile SAM system in March 1977. In September 1977, the SA-8 regiment became a mixed SA-6/SA-8 regiment with the introduction of SA-6 equipment. In October 1977, the divisional rocket launcher battalion was redeployed from Bezrechnaya Army Barracks AL-1 and moved 7 nm north to Mirnaya MRD Headquarters AL-1. The BMP-equipped MRR housed at Mirnaya received a battery of possible ZIL-131 rocket launchers in March 1978. The rocket launcher battalion housed at Mirnaya was possibly reequipped with the ZIL-131 rocket launcher in July 1978. In November 1978, two possible BTR-70s were observed with the BTR-60PB-equipped MRR at Mirnaya. If confirmed, this would be the second deployment of the BTR-70 in the USSR; the first deployment occurred in August 1978 in the Baltic MD.

63. () **6th Guards Motorized Rifle Division.** Six units of the 6th Guards MRD were upgraded during this reporting period. In August 1977, the SA-6 regiment housed at Dauriya MTZ Rifle Division Headquarters Barracks AL-1/SAM Support () was converted into an SA-6/SA-8 regiment. In March 1978, a SMALL FRED battlefield radar was identified in the artillery regiment at Kharanor Army Barracks Southwest AL-1 (). In June 1978, the 152mm towed howitzer battalion of the artillery regiment was reequipped with the 152mm SP gun. The tank regiment at Dauriya Army Barracks AL-1 was equipped with 12 122mm towed howitzers in May 1978, and by October 1978, the towed howitzers had been replaced by 122mm SP guns (Figure 25). This is one of the few tank regiments in the USSR with organic artillery. In October 1977, one of the MRRs at Dauriya was equipped with a BM-21 rocket launcher battery. This was the first maneuver regiment in the Transbaikal MD to receive a BM-21 battery. A second MRR at Dauriya received a battery of ZIL-131 rocket launchers in September 1978. In September 1978, the six tank battalions in this division (one each in three MRRs and three in the tank regiment) were reequipped with T-62 tanks. Also in September 1978, the reconnaissance battalion at Dauriya Army Barracks AL-1 was reequipped with BMPs.

29th Army

64. (TSR) In January 1977 the 29th Army, headquartered at Ulan-Ude, contained three MRDs. During the next two years, two existing divisions had units upgraded with new equipment, two second-generation divisions were identified (one newly deployed), one army-level unit was newly deployed, and one army-level unit was redeployed.

65. (TSR) **Army-Level Units.** An army-level, pontoon assault-crossing unit began deploying to Gusinozersk MTZ Rifle Division Headquarters/Barracks AL-1 () in June 1977. Deployment of the unit was complete by November 1977.

66. (TSR) **New Second-Generation Division (1).** Elements of a second-generation division began deploying to Shelekhov Army Barracks AL-1 () in September 1978. Nearly all divisional elements were observed here by the end of this reporting period.

67. (TSR) **Second-Generation Division (2).** Elements of another second-generation division at Ulan-Ude MTZ Rifle Division Headquarters/Army Barracks AL-1 () and at Ulan-Ude 9th RVGK Signal Brigade AL-3 () were identified in May 1977.

68. In December 1977, elements of a heavy lift regiment were observed at Ulan-Ude AL-3. This was the redeployment of the heavy lift regiment housed at Nizhniye Taltzy Storage Depot DX 1 () near Ulan-Ude and possibly Nalayah Army Barracks AL-1 () 290 nm to the south. The redeployment of the regiment was complete by June 1978.

69. (TSR) **Unidentified Motorized Rifle Division.** The unidentified MRD housed at Gusinozersk Army Barracks AL-1 upgraded one unit during this reporting period. In March 1977, the reconnaissance battalion was reequipped with BMPs.

70. () **12th Motorized Rifle Division.** The 12th MRD upgraded one unit during this reporting period. In July 1978, the artillery regiment housed at Ulan-Ude Headquarters/AL-1 reequipped its 152mm towed howitzer battalion with 152mm SP guns.

71. () **91st Motorized Rifle Division.** No significant changes were observed in the 91st MRD (Shelekhov) during this time.

39th Army

72. () In January 1977, the 39th Tank Army contained three tank divisions and one MRD. The army is headquartered in Ulaan Baatar and has units deployed in both the Transbaikal MD and Mongolia. From January 1977 to December 1978, all divisions had upgraded units with new equipment, one army-level unit was relocated, and elements of an army-level unit were identified newly deployed in the area.

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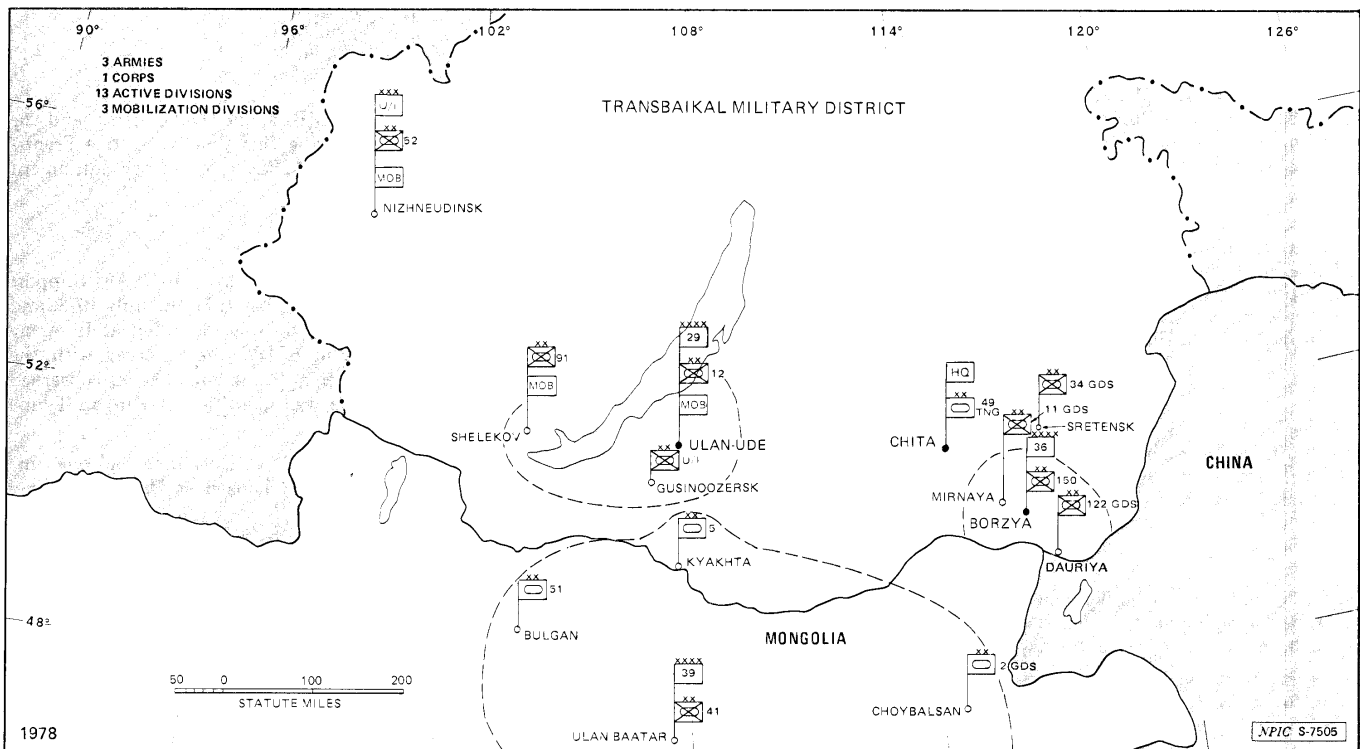
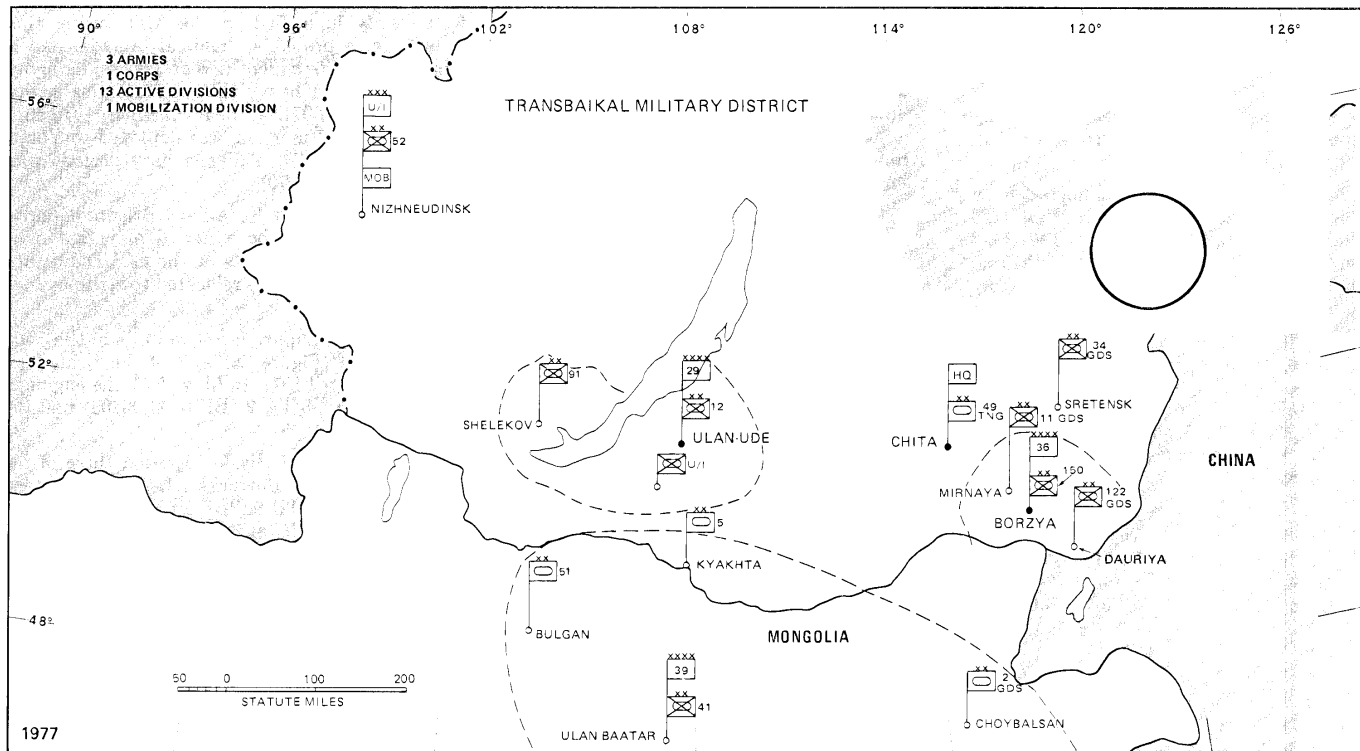


FIGURE 20. ORDER OF BATTLE, SINO-SOVIET BORDER AREA OF THE TRANSBAIKAL MILITARY DISTRICT, 1977 (TOP) AND 1978 (BOTTOM)

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73. (TSR) **Army-Level Units.** In October 1978, the first identifications of SA-4 equipment in Mongolia was made at Ulaan Baatar SAM Support Facility []. Further sightings of SA-4 support equipment and SA-4 TELs indicate that elements of an SA-4 brigade have been deployed in the Ulaan Baatar area.

74. (TSR) In September 1978, the rocket launcher regiment housed at Naushki Army Barracks AL-1 [] redeployed 400 nm southwest to Choybalsan Construction Camp [].

75. [] **51st Tank Division.** The 51st Tank Division had three of its units upgraded. In July 1977, the artillery regiment housed at Bulgan Army Barracks/Tank Division West (BE []) reequipped its towed 152mm howitzer battalion with 152mm SP guns. The SA-8 mobile SAM system replaced the 57mm AA guns in the AA regiment housed at Bulgan in March 1978. The MRR housed at Mandal Govi Military Installation [] received a battery of ZIL-131 rocket launchers in May 1978, and the divisional reconnaissance battalion housed at Mandal Govi relocated to Bulgan, 220 nm to the north, in October 1978.

76. [] **2d Guards Tank Division.** The 2d Guards Tank Division (Choybalsan) upgraded two of its units. In December 1977, the MRR housed at Choybalsan Army Barracks West AL-3 [] was probably equipped with a battalion of 122mm SP guns. A battery of BM-21 rocket launchers was also added to this regiment. In March 1978, the artillery regiment housed at Choybalsan Army Barracks AL-7 [] was upgraded with a battalion of 152mm SP guns, replacing a battalion of towed 122mm howitzers.

77. [] **5th Guards Tank Division.** The 5th Guards Tank Division (Kyakhta) housed at Kyakhta Tank Division Headquarters/SA-6 Regiment/Barracks AL-1 [] and at Kyakhta Army Barracks North AL-2 [] had two of its units upgraded. The reconnaissance battalion was reequipped with BMPs in May 1977. In June 1977, one battalion of 122mm towed howitzers of the artillery regiment was reequipped with 152mm SP guns. This was the first Soviet tank division to be equipped with 152mm howitzers in its artillery regiment; also in June 1977, the MRR was probably equipped with a battalion of 122mm SP guns.

78. [] **41st Motorized Rifle Division.** The 41st MRD (Sumer Suma) underwent major changes during this period with six of its units being upgraded with new or additional equipment. In February 1977, the MRR housed at Saynshanda Army Barracks AL-1 [] had its battery of 122mm towed howitzers increased to a battalion. In May, the AAA regiment at Sumer Suma MTZ Rifle Division Headquarters/Barracks AL-1 [] was reequipped with the SA-6 mobile SAM system. In the summer of 1978, the three MRRs in this division reequipped their tank battalions with T-62s, and each regiment received a battery of rocket launchers. T-62s were identified with the MRRs at Ulaan Baatar Army Barracks AL-1 (BE []) and at Sumer Suma AL-1 in September 1978. The Saynshanda MRR probably was also reequipped with T-62s in the summer of 1978. A battery of BM-21s was observed with the MRR at Ulaan Baatar in February 1978. The BM-21s were replaced by ZIL-131 rocket launchers by December. A battery of BM-21s was identified with the MRR at Sumer Suma AL-1 in May 1978. These BM-21s were replaced with ZIL-131 rocket launchers in June. A ZIL-131 rocket launcher battery was identified with the MRR at Saynshanda AL-1 in June.

Nizhneudinsk Corps

79. (TSR) A possible corps is in the Nizhneudinsk area, containing the 52d MRD, a second-generation division housed at Nizhneudinsk MTZ Rifle Division Headquarters/ Barracks AL-1 [], and a signal unit at Bratsk Military Installation []. A low level of activity was observed during this reporting period, and the only major change was in May 1977 when the reconnaissance battalion of the 52d MRD was reequipped with BMPs.

Siberian Military District

80. (TSR) The Siberian MD, headquartered at Novosibirsk, contains five MRDs and various Front- and army-level units (Figure 26). From January 1977 to December 1978, two Front-/army-level units moved out of the MD, four Front-/army-level units were newly identified, one army-level unit was relocated, two army-level units were upgraded, and all of the MRDs received new equipment (Figure 27).

Front-/Army-Level Units

81. (TSR) In March 1977, the assault-crossing battalion usually housed at Tyumen Army Barracks AL-1 [] was not present. The pontoon bridge regiment, also housed at this installation, left the installation in July 1977. Neither unit has been seen elsewhere in the district.

82. (TSR) In April 1977, an increase of artillery pieces and prime movers was observed in the artillery brigade housed at Yurga Army Barracks Southeast AL-1 []. The artillery brigade housed at Ishim Army Barracks AL-1 [] received 13 MT-LB prime movers in October 1977.

83. (TSR) Four Front-/army-level units were newly identified in the MD during this period—a heavy lift regiment, a heavy artillery brigade, a probable chemical brigade, and a diversionary brigade. Elements of a probable chemical brigade were identified at Topchikha Army Barracks AL-1 [] in April 1978. In July 1978, a heavy lift regiment was newly identified at Biysk Army Training Area TA 1 []. A heavy artillery brigade, equipped with the 203mm gun howitzers and the 240mm towed mortars, was deployed to Yurga Army Barracks Southeast AL-1 in October 1978. In January 1979, a diversionary brigade was identified at Novosibirsk Army Barracks Berdsk AL-2 [].

84. (TSR) Elements of a MRR or a UR unit was observed at Kotashevo Brigade Guards Barracks AL-1 [] in October 1978. This unit could be a new deployment or a conversion of the border guards unit previously housed there. Elements of the SCUD brigade housed at Krasnoyarsk Army Barracks AL-2/TA 1 [] were relocated to Krasnoyarsk SAM Site B02-2 [] in August 1978.

85. [] **56th Training Division.** New equipment was deployed to two units in the 56th Training Division (Omsk). The first deployment of the T-64 (Figure 28) east of the Urals was identified at Omsk Army Barracks AL-7 [] in April 1977. In May 1978, the engineer battalion housed at Omsk Army Barracks South-Southeast AL-5/TA 2 [] had its MDK-2 ditchers replaced with PZM ditchers.

86. [] **23d Motorized Rifle Division.** The 23d MRD at Biysk upgraded three of its units. In January 1977, two of the MRRs housed at Biysk Army Barracks AL-2/Headquarters MRD [] had their BTR-152 APCs replaced with BTR-60PBs. In March 1977, the reconnaissance battalion housed at Topchikha Army Barracks AL-1 was reequipped with BMPs.

87. [] **38th Motorized Rifle Division.** The 38th MRD at Abakan had two of its units upgraded. In November 1977, BMPs were identified with the MRR housed at Abakan Army Barracks AL-1/Headquarters MRD []. The divisional signal battalion was identified at Kyzyl Army Barracks AL-2 [] in August 1977.

88. (TSR) **Unidentified Motorized Rifle Division.** The unidentified MRD at Itaka had four of its units upgraded. In January 1977, the number of BMPs in the MRR housed at Itaka Army Barracks AL-1/TA 1/Headquarters MRD [] increased from 27 to over 90. In March 1978, BMPs were observed deployed in the tank regiment and reconnaissance battalion housed at Itaka Army Barracks AL-3 []. In June 1978, the FROG-3/-5 battalion housed at Itaka Army Barracks AL-2 [] was reequipped with FROG-7s [].

89. [] **85th Motorized Rifle Division.** No changes were observed in the 85th MRD (Novosibirsk) during this reporting period.

Central Asian Military District

90. (TSR) The Central Asian MD (Figure 29) contains six MRDs, one tank division, and one second-generation division organized into two army corps. During this timeframe, five Front-/army-level units were newly identified in the MD, and five of the MRDs received new equipment (Figure 30).

Front-Subordinate Units

91. (TSR) An AAA division was newly formed at Osh Army Barracks AL-1/SAM Support Facility/Research Equipment Depot [] between December 1977 and July 1978, and over 150 AA guns were deployed. A probable diversionary brigade was identified at Ili Army Barracks AL-1 [] in May 1977. An increase in BMPs was observed with the unidentified combat unit at Osh in June 1977, and an increase in antitank guns was also observed in January 1978. A probable nondivisional chemical battalion was identified at Kurgan Tyube Army Barracks AL-1 [] in October 1978.

92. [] **201st Motorized Rifle Division.** The 201st MRD at Dushanbe had one unit upgraded. In September 1977, BMPs were identified in the MRR housed at Dushanbe Army Barracks AL-2/Headquarters MRD [].

93. (TSR) **203d Motorized Rifle Division.** The 203d MRD at Karaganda-Termir Tau had no significant changes during this reporting period.

1st Army Corps

94. (TSR) The 1st Army Corps is headquartered at Semipalatinsk and contains one MRD, one tank division, and a second-generation division. During this reporting period, one army-level unit was deployed in the area, one army-level unit was upgraded, and the tank division received new equipment.

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95. (TSR) **Army-Level Units.** Elements of a SCUD brigade were identified at Semipalatinsk Army Barracks AL-1/Headquarters Artillery Division/SA-8 (BE) in June 1977. The artillery brigade, also housed at Semipalatinsk Army Barracks AL-1, received ATGMs in May 1977 and the BIG FRED battlefield radar in June 1977.

96. **78th Tank Division.** The 78th Tank Division had three of its units upgraded during this period. The reconnaissance battalion housed at Ayaguz Army Barracks South AL-2/Headquarters Tank Division was reequipped with BMPs in April 1977. One BMP was identified in each of the two tank regiments also housed at Ayaguz in April 1977.

97. **155th Motorized Rifle Division.** The 155th MRD at Ust Kamenogorsk had no significant changes during this reporting period.

98. (TSR) **Second-Generation Division.** The engineer battalion for the second-generation division was identified at Georgiyevka Army Barracks AL-1 (BE) in February 1977.

17th Army Corps

99. (TSR) The 17th Army Corps is headquartered at Frunze and contains three MRDs. During this reporting period, one army-level unit was deployed into the area, and all three divisions received new equipment.

100. (TSR) **Army-Level Unit.** A nondivisional chemical battalion was identified at Frunze Army Barracks AL-5 in April 1978.

101. (TSR) **Unidentified Motorized Rifle Division.** The unidentified MRD at Sary-Ozek had major changes in three of its units during this reporting period. In February 1977, the AAA regiment moved 40 nm northwest from Ili Army Barracks AL-1 to Sary-Ozek Army Barracks AL-1/Headquarters MRD. The regiment was reequipped with the SA-6 mobile SAM in May 1977 and received the SA-8 mobile SAM in October 1977, thus becoming a mixed SA-6/SA-8 regiment. The SA-9 and ZSU-23/4 AA guns were identified with the tank regiment housed at Sary-Ozek in September 1977, and the divisional signal battalion was identified at Sary-Ozek in June 1977.

102. **8th Guards Motorized Rifle Division.** The 8th Guards MRD at Pereval Kurday had major changes in three of its units. In July 1977, the reconnaissance battalion housed at Pereval Kurday AL-1/TA 1/Headquarters MRD was reequipped with BMPs. A second MRR was identified at Rybachye Army Barracks AL-1/TA 1 in August 1977. The BMP-equipped MRR housed at Rybachye was equipped with a battalion of 122mm D-30 howitzers in February 1978.

103. **80th Motorized Rifle Division.** The 80th MRD at Otari had three of its units upgraded during this reporting period. In February 1977, a full complement of BMPs was observed with one of the MRRs housed at Otari Army Barracks North AL-1/Headquarters MRD. In April 1977, a BMP M-1975 was observed in the artillery regiment also housed at Otari. In August 1978, a MT-LB SAM training exercise was observed near Otari Army Barracks Southwest AL-4/Research Equipment Storage, indicating that one of the four maneuver regiments has probably been equipped with this SAM system.

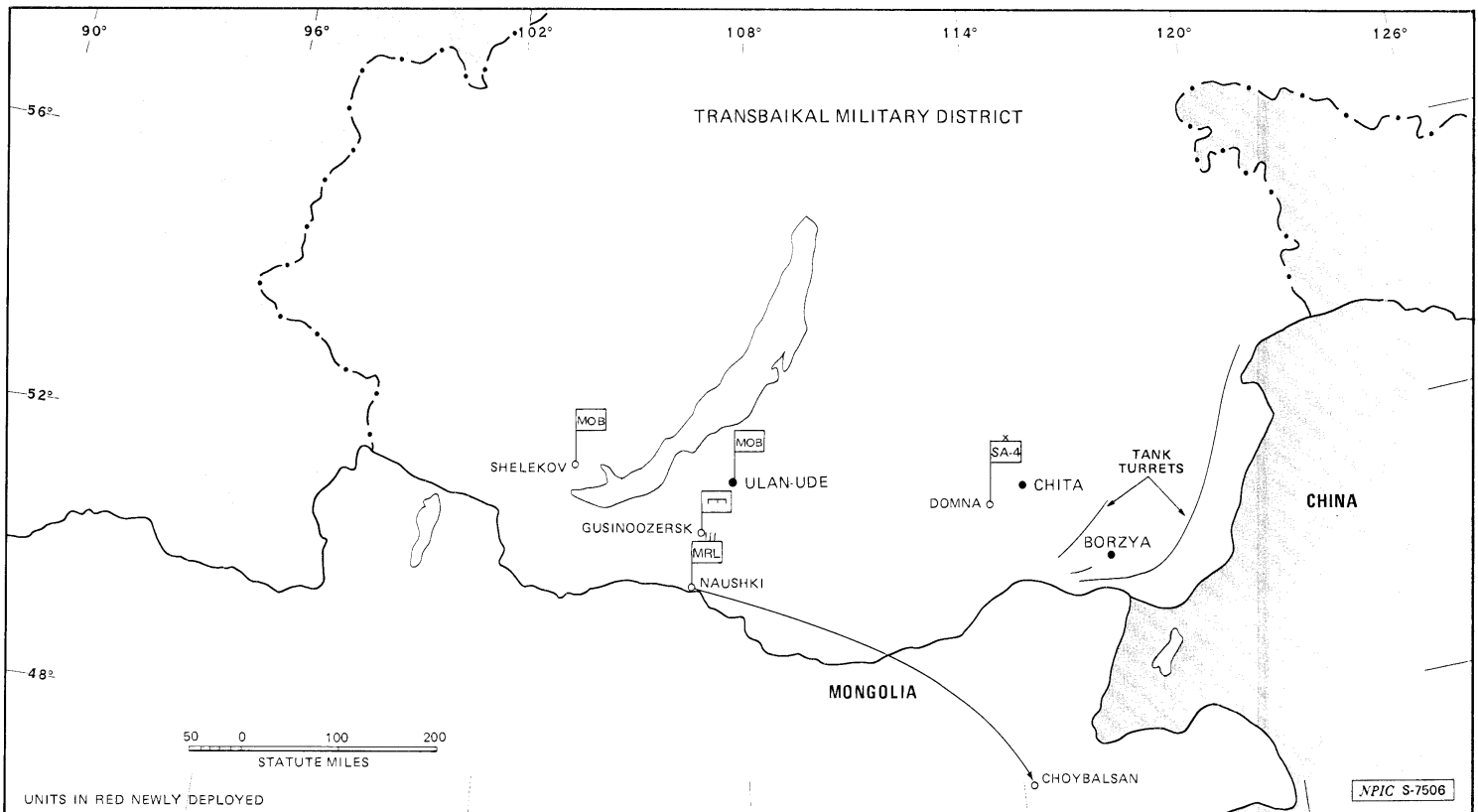


FIGURE 21. NEW DEPLOYMENTS AND MAJOR MOVEMENTS, TRANSBAIKAL MILITARY DISTRICT

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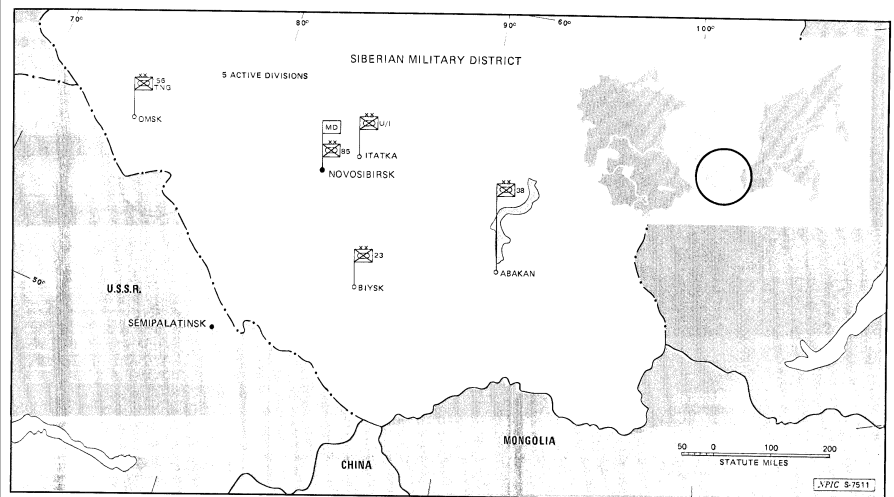


FIGURE 26. ORDER OF BATTLE, SINO-SOVIET BORDER AREA OF THE SIBERIAN MILITARY DISTRICT, 1977-1978

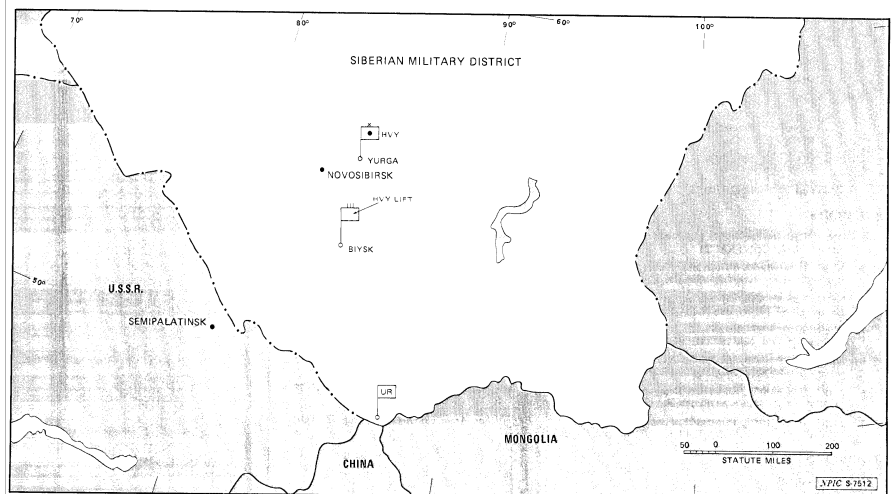


FIGURE 27. DEPLOYMENT OF NEW UNITS, SIBERIAN MILITARY DISTRICT IN 1977 AND 1978

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REFERENCES

IMAGERY

(TSR) All available KEYHOLE imagery from November 1976 [] to January 1979 [] was used in the preparation of this report.

SMALL-FORMAT IMAGERY

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3. NPIC. [] SR-002/78. Confirmed Deployment of a New Self-Propelled Gun Alone the Sino-Soviet Border. USSR (TSR), Jan 78 (TOP SECRET) []
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7. NPIC. [] PIR-038/78. Force Improvements in the Birobidzhan Area, USSR (TSR), Aug 78 (TOP SECRET) []

REQUIREMENT

Project 130061NG

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [redacted] Warsaw Pact Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC

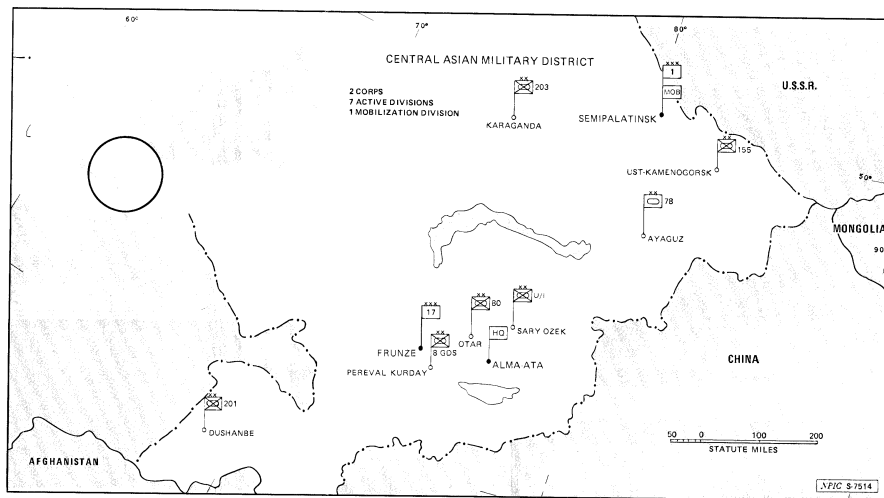


FIGURE 29. ORDER OF BATTLE, SINO-SOVIET BORDER AREA OF THE CENTRAL ASIAN MILITARY DISTRICT IN 1977 AND 1978

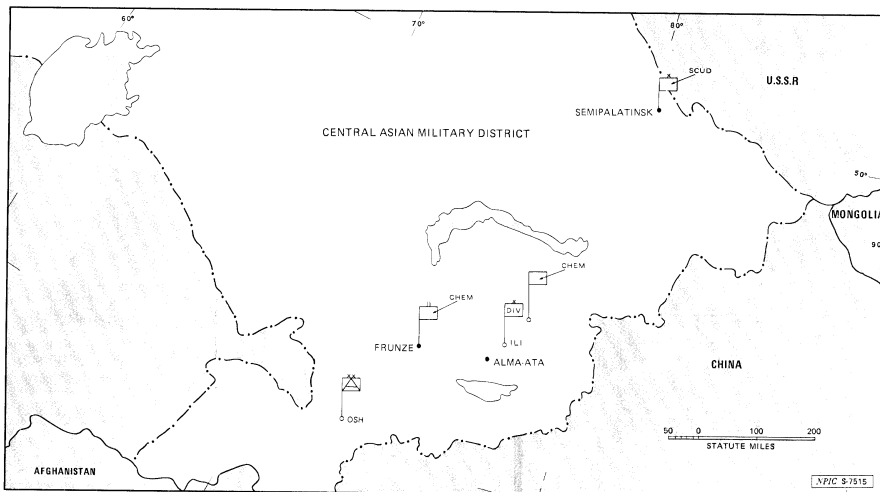


FIGURE 30. DEPLOYMENT OF NEW UNITS, CENTRAL ASIAN MILITARY DISTRICT

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